

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL *I*

A N N U A L   R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963  
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ACKD BY *[Signature]*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

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Medical Officer of Health,  
Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare.  
Tel: Weston-super-Mare 890.

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Chief Public Health Inspector,  
Certificate of R.S.I. and  
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R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat  
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W. HIGHAM

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Certificate of R.S.A.(Scotland)  
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J.S.S. STRONG

Rodent Officer.



AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL : REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1963

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department in 1963.

The first part of the report as usual deals with what might be called the hard facts of life and death and the various rates for the District compare favourably with most other areas in the Country. In fact this year we had an extremely low Infant Mortality Rate, only two infants under the age of one year dying. As the total births during the year, however, are comparatively small, this infant mortality rate is bound to fluctuate considerably from year to year, mainly due to chance. Nevertheless it is a very satisfactory figure.

Regarding the services administered by the District Council, one of the most important is the provision of adequate sewage disposal systems in the various parishes. Preparatory work on a number of the schemes is steadily going on but it will be some time yet before they are completed. Meanwhile other parishes are demanding similar schemes as their villages rapidly expand in size. This is no longer a "rural" district, but a collection of small towns.

I have made some comments on the decision of the Minister of Health to postpone again the building of the new hospital for the area. Rapid changes of mind like this - three directly opposite decisions in two years - must be deplored, and every effort must be made to make him change his mind once more, and then stick to the decision.

Mr. Ellis's section of the report again shows the variety of work done by the Public Health Inspectors, and I would like to thank him and the other Inspectors for the excellent way in which they have carried out their duties during the year.

I would also thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and the Officers and Staff of other departments for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. McGOWAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1964.

# SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## General Statistics.

Area of District	90,551 acres
Population: 1931 Census	22,076
" 1951 "	26,535
" 1961 "	30,796
Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1963	31,980
Rateable Value	£1,122,802
Number of Inhabited Houses	10,093

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1963

### LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	242	218	460
Illegitimate	10	12	22
	<u>252</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>482</u>

LIVE BIRTHS RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 15.1

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.20) = 18.1

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS: (per cent of total live births) = 4.6%

### STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

STILL BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 live and Still births) = 10.3

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 487

INFANT DEATHS: (Deaths under 1 year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

### INFANT MORTALITY RATES

TOTAL INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 live births) = 4.2

LEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 Legitimate live births) = 4.2

ILLEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) = Nil

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 2.1

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) = 2.1

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (still births & deaths under 1 week combined  
per 1,000 total live & still births) = 14.4

MATERNAL DEATHS - Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live and still births) = Nil

## DEATHS:

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
196	194	390

CRUDE DEATH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 12.2

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.92) = 11.2

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS:

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 482 (252 boys and 230 girls), this being 73 births less than in 1962. Of these births 22 were illegitimate.

The crude birth rate for 1963 was 15.1 and when the comparability factor (1.20) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 18.1 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 18.8 in 1962. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1963 was 18.2.

### BIRTH RATES

<u>Year:</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
England and Wales	15.2	15.0	15.6	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0	18.2
Axbridge Rural District	16.0	14.6	12.8	15.9	16.4	14.9	18.0	15.2	18.8	18.1

### STILL BIRTHS

The registered number of still births in 1963 was 5 of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 10.3 per 1,000 total births.

### DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 390 (196 males and 194 females). This is 12 more than in 1962 and gives a crude death rate of 12.2. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 11.2 per 1,000 of total population compared with 12.2 for England and Wales as a whole.

Causes of death at different periods of life during 1963 in the District:-

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 year.
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	6	-	-
	F	4	-	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	11	-	-
	F	2	-	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-
	F	8	-	-
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	3	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	15	-	-
	F	19	-	-
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-
16. Diabetes	M	4	-	-
	F	1	-	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	23	-	-
	F	31	-	-
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	M	46	-	-
	F	26	-	-
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	2	-	-
	F	6	-	-
20. Other Heart Disease	M	16	-	-
	F	32	-	-
21. Other Circulatory Disease	M	8	-	-
	F	16	-	-
23. Pneumonia	M	11	-	-
	F	14	-	-
24. Bronchitis	M	12	-	-
	F	2	-	-
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	4	-	-
	F	6	-	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M	4	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	M	2	-	1
	F	-	-	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M	9	-	-
	F	15	1	-
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	10	-	-
	F	1	-	-
34. All other accidents	M	7	-	-
	F	2	-	-
35. Suicide	M	3	-	-
	F	1	-	-
Total All Causes	M	196	-	1
	F	194	1	-



Age in years.

1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	2
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1	3	1	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
1	-	-	1	-	2	3	5	3
-	1	-	-	-	1	2	7	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	12
-	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	18
-	-	-	-	2	3	17	12	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	17
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	28
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	9
-	-	7	-	2	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
-	2	-	1	2	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	3	7	3	9	7	34	60	71
1	1	-	2	4	9	18	41	117

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1963.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of Death	Under 1 day	1-7 days	1-4 wks	Total under 1 month	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2

## FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Probably the most controversial subject in the Council Chambers of the County in 1963 was fluoridation of water supplies. After a number of years study and investigation in different parts of the world, it had been shown without any reasonable doubt that in those areas where fluorine was naturally present in the domestic water supplies and in areas where it was naturally absent but had been added in a proportion of one part per million, the amount of dental decay in the community could be reduced by as much as 60%. In 1962 a report was published on the results of trials carried out in three different areas in this Country, which supported what had been found in other parts of the world.

This report and its recommendations led the Minister of Health to issue a circular to all Local Authorities saying that the Minister was now ready to approve the making of arrangements with water undertakers for the addition of flouride to water supplies deficient in it naturally. This meant that County and County Borough Councils were given the opportunity to provide suitable schemes for their own area and the Somerset County Council set up a working party to consider the matter. Before reaching a decision, however, they asked the views of individual County District Councils.

I am happy to say that this Council agreed to the principal of flouridation, but when the matter was discussed by the County Council it was rejected by a very small majority vote. Thus one of the greatest opportunities that Local Authorities have had to improve the health of the community was lost, at least for the present. I am sure however that before very long, common sence and reason will prevail, and the principle of fluoridation will be accepted.

## WATER SUPPLIES

No shortage of water supplies was reported from any part of the District in 1963.

Every parish has a piped main water supply and 9667 houses are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company in this way. However, although every parish has a main water supply, not every house in each parish can be supplied from the mains and there are still 128 houses in the District relying on other sources. Eighty houses depend on wells, twenty-four on springs and fourteen on rainwater.



Bacteriological and chemical sampling of the public supplies is now carried out by the Bristol Waterworks Company, but independent sampling is also done by the Council's Public Health Department. The results of such sampling are given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following parishes have main drainage and sewage disposal systems:- Axbridge, Banwell, Blagdon, Butcombe, Cheddar, Winscombe, Locking, part of Shipham, Congresbury and Wrington.

The following extensions, new works or improvements were carried out during the year:-

(a) <u>Completed</u>	<u>Cost.</u>
Wrington - sewer extension to serve new development near Cox's Green.	Provided by developer.
Mark - Sewer and sewage disposal work to serve new development and a limited area near the village centre.	£ 3,271
(b) <u>In progress</u>	
Wedmore Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme.	£49,000
Banwell, Knightcott sewer extension.	£ 3,750
(c) <u>Future Proposals</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
Brean and Berrow (Coastal scheme) sewage scheme	£109,000
Bleadon sewage scheme	£ 45,000
Hutton, Banwell, Locking Sewage Scheme - Phase I	£ 50,000
Hutton, Banwell, Locking Sewage Scheme - Phase II	£ 28,000
Sandford, Churchill, Langford Sewage Scheme (Works required to connect Langford only in first priority - £60,000).	£128,000 (Whole scheme)

All these schemes have been investigated by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Kewstoke sewerage scheme £140,000

This scheme has been investigated and certain revisions are being made.

## HOUSING

The following table shows the progress of new house building by both the District Council and private enterprise during the past seven years. Since 1957 practically all the building of houses by the District Council has been for elderly people, and in 1963, of the 25 houses built 22 were for the elderly which the remaining three were for the wardens who look after the various groups of Old People's Bungalows.

	New Houses built by	
	Local Authority	Private Enterprise
1957	112	124
1958	34	145
1959	11	181
1960	9	284
1961	8	290
1962	29	247
1963	25	296
	228	1567

	<u>December</u> <u>1963</u>	<u>December</u> <u>1962</u>
Number of houses owned by the Council	1622	1597
Number of applicants for Council Houses (inc. Old People's dwellings)	333	395
Number of Families rehoused during the year	69	63

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the notifications of infectious diseases in the District during the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>
Measles	369
Scarlet Fever	3
Diphtheria	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Meningococcal Infection	1
Dysentery	-
Whooping Cough	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia )	6
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia)	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	2
Food Poisoning	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	8
Tuberculosis - Non-Respiratory	2

Apart from measles the only notifiable infectious disease which caused concern during 1963 was food poisoning. In September the Public Health Department was informed that a number of people at one of the large holiday camps in the District appeared to be suffering from symptoms of food poisoning. Investigations were started at once and it was found that 110 out of a total of 700 people in the camp were affected and examination of samples of faeces from a number of the affected people showed that the illness was due to a food poisoning organism named *Clostridium Welchii*. Unfortunately, as so often happens, by the time we heard of the outbreak all remnants of the previous day's menu in the camp had been disposed of

but as this particular organism is frequently found in cold and reheated meat dishes there was a very strong suspicion that Cornish pasties which had been served for dinner on the previous evening were the most likely source of the infection.

Another interesting occurrence earlier in the year was connected with the very severe outbreak of typhoid fever in Zermatt in Switzerland. A young man in the District developed typhoid fever on his return home. He made a good recovery and no secondary cases occurred.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table shows the number of people vaccinated or re-vaccinated in the District in 1963, and for comparison the corresponding figures for 1962:-

	<u>Under</u> <u>1 Year</u>		<u>1 Year</u>		<u>2 - 4 Yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14 Yrs.</u>		<u>15 Yrs. or</u> <u>Over</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
<u>1963</u>	39	-	11	-	2	2	8	9	14	49	74	61
<u>1962</u>	192	-	57	-	76	24	338	291	496	999	1159	1314

P. = Primary Vaccination

R. = Revaccination

The difference between the two years is most striking but it should be remembered that 1962 was the year when smallpox was prevalent in different parts of the Country. As a result there was a tremendous demand for vaccination, and it is only natural that in the following year there should be a fall below the average number usually done in a year. However there should not have been a fall in the number of children under the age of two who were vaccinated and when one remembers that every year there are about 500 children born in the District, a mere 50 children under 2 years of age vaccinated in 1963 seems deplorably low. It should not require an epidemic of smallpox to stimulate parents to take steps to protect their children against such a dangerous disease. Human memory, however, appears to be very short. The age for primary vaccination against smallpox is between one and two years, not adult age or whenever a smallpox "scare" starts.

TUBERCULOSIS

Eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was only one death due to this cause during the year. The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year was:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
82	59	10	8	92	67

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

In 1956, the County Council, as the Local Health Authority, introduced a scheme for the vaccination of children against tuberculosis. B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmette Guerin) vaccine is used and the offer extended to all thirteen-year old children. The children are first given a skin test with tuberculin (Heaf Test) and if the skin reaction is negative, they are then vaccinated. Children showing a positive Heaf Test do not require vaccination.

In 1963, 562 thirteen-year old children in the North West Somerset Divisional Area had the preliminary Heaf Test and of these 44 were found



to be positive, i.e. 7.8%. The remaining 518 negative reactors were vaccinated.

A positive Heaf Test in an unvaccinated child means that at some time during his life the child has been infected with tuberculosis. In the great majority of cases, the infection has been overcome and is no longer active, but every positive case found as the result of testing each year is investigated fully at the Chest Clinic to ensure that no active infection is present. When the B.C.G. Vaccination scheme started in 1956 about 14% of thirteen year old children were found to have a positive reaction but since then this proportion has dropped gradually and now it is about 7%. This improvement has been due to a number of causes such as the decrease in number of active infectious cases among the adult population and also the very successful scheme for the eradication of tuberculosis from dairy cattle and therefore from the milk supplies of the Country.

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1963, the last to occur in the District being in 1946. Immunisation against diphtheria by private doctors and in Infant Welfare Clinics continued throughout the year and 323 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 21 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 304 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

322 children under the age of five years were immunised against Whooping Cough, and 323 were immunised against Tetanus.

#### POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

Since immunisation against poliomyelitis started in 1957, the vaccine used has been the Salk type which had to be given by injection. In February 1962, the Ministry of Health authorised the use of Sabin vaccine which is given by mouth. Naturally this is a much more convenient method of giving the vaccine, and is much more acceptable to both children and adults. The value of immunisation has already been shown by the fact that poliomyelitis is now a comparatively rare disease and it is hoped that before long it will be completely eliminated from this Country. The following gives details of the numbers who were given immunisation in the area during 1963.

##### (a) Primary Immunisation

	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>
Children born 1943 - 63	27	409
Young persons born 1933 - 42	-	31
Persons under 40 years of age and priority groups	1	29

(b) In addition 503 people (in all age groups) received a reinforcing dose either with Salk or Oral vaccine.

#### HOSPITALS

When in 1962, the Minister of Health issued his plan giving his priorities for new hospital building in the Country during the next ten years, it was a great disappointment to see that, although he had in mind the provision of a new District General Hospital for the Weston-super-Mare area, he did not see the scheme for this starting until after 1970 - 71.

However he did say that ...."the programme shall be reviewed and carried forward annually, so that there will always be available an assessment of the work likely to be started over the next ten years. It will be translated into action by the award of starting dates for individual schemes."

During the following year a renewed effort was made by all concerned with the hospital services to impress on the Minister the urgency of the need in this area, and it gave great satisfaction to all to see that in his first annual review of the Ten-Year Plan, the Minister had brought forward the building of the new hospital into the first ten years. The Regional Hospital Board immediately formed a Project Team to work out the very complicated details of the planning and development of the new hospital, and during the following months the Team worked extremely hard to get the initial planning phase completed.

It was therefore with astonishment that we learnt that in his second review of the Plan the Minister had decided once again to postpone the building of the hospital until the second ten year period. At the time of writing this I do not know the reasons for the Minister's change of mind but presumably they are mainly financial. If so, one would imagine that it would be reasonable to place the building of the hospital so that at least part of it would be built now, and eventually the remainder on the same site. There would then be some relief to the existing hospital services.

Meanwhile all that can be done at present is to renew efforts to make the Minister change his mind again. Perhaps he may do so in his third annual review. He did say that " .... the programme shall be reviewed and carried forward annually .... "

#### LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The County Council, as the Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision of a number of personal health services mainly connected with maternity and child welfare; the School Health Service (through the Education Committee) and mental health. The Medical Officer of Health to the District Council is also the Divisional School Medical Officer for the N.W. Somerset Divisional Executive Area, and carries out a number of other duties concerned with the personal health services of the County Council. Child Welfare Clinics are held at Axbridge, Banwell, Bleadon, Cheddar, Congresbury, Hutton, Locking R.A.F. Camp, Locking Village, Winscombe and Wrington.





ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963.

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1963.

HOUSING

The following tables indicate the progress made during the year in dealing with sub-standard houses.

Discretionary Improvement Grants.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1962.	458 applications (515 dwellings)	445 applications (500 dwellings)	13 applications (15 dwellings)
Applications dealt with during 1963.	31 applications (34 dwellings)	31 applications (34 dwellings)	- applications (- dwellings)
Position at 31st December, 1963.	489 applications (549 dwellings)	476 applications (534 dwellings)	13 applications (15 dwellings)

Standard Improvement Grants.

	<u>Applications Received</u>	<u>Applications Approved</u>	<u>Applications Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1962.	92	84	8
Applications dealt with during 1963.	19	19	-
Position at 31st December, 1963.	111	103	8

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 33 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 43 in 1962. 10 houses were demolished during the year. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1963 is as follows:-

Number of properties satisfactory in all respects (Category 1)	1,016
Number of properties with minor defects (Category 2)	515
Number of properties requiring major repair or structural alterations (Category 3)	2,119
Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost (Category 5)	234

Statutory Action under the Provisions of  
The Housing Acts.

During the year, statutory action under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957 was instituted in respect of 24 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows:-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.62.	32
<u>During 1963</u>	
Demolition Orders made	2
Closing Orders made	1
Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit.	26
Undertakings accepted to make premises fit	-
Cases under consideration at 31.12.63.	27

OVERCROWDING

On the 31st December, 1963 there were 3 cases of statutory overcrowding on the register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 has ensured adequate control of sanitary conditions on caravan sites. The position with regard to tented camping sites is, however, far from satisfactory. Of some 40 sites used for tented camping only 4 were licensed, owing to the wide exemption from licensing contained in Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936. On these unlicensed sites sanitary accommodation was generally inadequate.

A. Number of licensed caravan sites (more than one caravan)		
(a)	Residential	6
(b)	Holiday	64
Total number of caravans permitted on these sites		
(a)	Residential	327
(b)	Holiday	2,593
B. Number of licensed caravan sites (single caravans)		
(a)	Residential	21
(b)	Holiday	6
C. Number of tent sites licensed during year.		
		4
Number of tents permitted on these sites.		192

## FOOD PREMISES

Details of the number of routine inspections of food premises are given in the summary at the end of this report.

No statutory proceedings were instituted during the year.

Particulars of the various types of food premises in the District are given below:-

### Number of Food Premises in Area (excluding registered dairy premises)

#### A. Food Manufacturing Premises

Edible Fat Refineries	2
Cheese Straw Factory	1
Cheese Factories	3
Bakers	8

#### Retail Shops

B.	Grocers	134
	Confectioners	46
	Butchers	22
	Fishmongers & Greengrocers (combined)	4
	Greengrocers	8
	Dairies	3

#### C. Catering Premises. 147 (including licensed premises)

#### D. Premises registered under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (excluding premises used for the Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream)

Sausage making	15
Fish frying	4

#### MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of registered dairies	7
Number of milk distributors	69

#### ICE CREAM

The ice-cream manufactured in the District is manufactured in accordance with the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952 in preparation rooms which have been especially constructed or adapted for the purpose.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream (complete cold mix)	2
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Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	201
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Because of the pressure of other work no samples of ice-cream were taken during the year.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The following is a summary of the results of the bacteriological examinations of the monthly water samples taken from the public supplies. All these supplies are chlorinated.

Probable No. of Coliform  
Bacilli MacConkey 2 days  
37°C

	<u>0 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>13 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>25+ per 100 ml.</u>
Cheddar and Axbridge	12 samples	- samples	- samples
South Mendip (Cross)	12 "	- "	- "
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	12 "	- "	- "
Winscombe & Churchill	12 "	- "	- "
North Mendip	12 "	- "	- "
Burrington	12 "	- "	- "
Twin Brook Adit	10 "	1 "	1 "
Blagdon	11 "	- "	1 "
Kewstoke	12 "	- "	- "
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 "	- "	- "
	<u>117 samples</u>	<u>1 sample</u>	<u>2 samples</u>

A sample of water from each of the above supplies was submitted for chemical analysis during the year. All these samples were reported upon by the Analyst as being free from plumbo-solvency or other harmful contamination.

4 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private premises not receiving a supply from the public mains. The samples of water from 2 of these premises proved to satisfactory and 2 to be unsatisfactory. A supply from the public main was substituted for other supplies in 3 premises.



MEAT INSECTION

Two private slaughterhouses were licensed in the District and continued in operation throughout the year.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses and offel inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	152	1	11	378	263	-
Number inspected	152	1	11	378	263	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	-	-	6	12	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.89	-	-	1.85	4.94	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	87	-	-	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	87	-	-	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	-

### CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Increased demand for cesspool emptying resulted in unavoidable delays in carrying out this work. In view of the Council's programme for sewage schemes, however, no additional tanker vehicle is recommended at the present time.

Total number of cesspools and settlement tanks  
cleansed during the year. 1,354

### DRAINAGE

The creation of new housing estates in areas where there is no main drainage continues to give cause for concern. It is apparently not within the province of planning to limit substantial development to those areas where adequate services are available. As there are still large areas of the district where there is no main drainage, and where development with septic tank drainage is taking place, these drainage problems are likely to increase.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

There was an increase of 120 tons in the amount of refuse collected in 1963 compared with the amount collected in 1962.

Estimated amount of refuse  
collected during the year 8,370 tons

Total amount of salvaged material  
disposed of during year:-

	<u>T.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Qr.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
(a) Paper and Cardboard	147.	16.	0.	316.	6.	3.
(b) Rags	6.	15.	1.	157.	1.	3.
(c) Non-ferrous metals	4.	17.	0.	388.	3.	6.
(d) Sundries	4.	7.	0.	23.	3.	0.

### CLEAN AIR ACT

It is necessary to direct the attention of the Council to the provisions of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 which impose a duty on the Council, where plans showing it is proposed to construct a chimney are deposited under the building by-laws, to reject the plans unless the Council is satisfied that the chimney is carried to a sufficient height. A comprehensive memorandum on chimney heights has been prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the guidance of local authorities.

In the past, more attention appears to have been given to the reduction of chimney heights in the interest of visual amenities than to the provision of chimneys of adequate height in the interest of public health.

# RODENT CONTROL

The following is a copy of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which gives details of rodent control work carried out in the District during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1963.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY				
		<u>Non-Agricultural</u>				
		Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (inc. Business premises).	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agric- ultural
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
I. No. of properties in Local Authority's District		16	10093	581	10690	975
II. Total No. of properties inspected as a result of notification.		-	140	20	160	-
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-						
Common Rat	Major	-	20	10	30	34
	Minor	-	91	5	96	-
Ship Rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	Major	-	7	-	7	10
	Minor	2	21	4	27	40
III. Total No. of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act		16	1301	121	1438	281
No. of such properties found to be infected by:-						
Common Rat	Major	3	68	15	86	48
	Minor	10	138	5	153	40
Ship Rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	Major	-	10	-	10	40
	Minor	2	5	15	22	120
IV. Total No. of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)		2	12	9	23	10
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-						
Common Rat	Major	-	6	3	9	10
	Minor	2	2	1	5	-
Ship Rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	Major	-	3	-	3	-
	Minor	-	1	5	6	-

TYPE OF PROPERTY  
Non-Agricultural

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (inc. Business premises).	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agric- ultural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
V. Total inspections carried out - inc. re-inspections	60	1582	200	1842	501
VI. No. of infested properties in Sections II, III, & IV treated by the L.A.	15	420	21	456	30
VII. Total treatments carried out - inc. re-treatments	24	501	10	535	36
VIII. No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
IX. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of Act.	-	-	-	-	-
X. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
XI. No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	-				



# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following table gives the particulars of the work carried out during the year:-

## 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions of health:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	109	85	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	10	10	Nil	Nil
	124	98	Nil	Nil

## 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to To H.M. Insp.</u>	<u>By H.M. Insp.</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	1	-	1	-
	3	3	-	1	-

## PETROLEUM

All petroleum storage installations are inspected annually before applications for renewal of licences are considered by the Public Health Committee.

Number of premises licensed for the storage of petrol	147
Number of existing underground tanks tested	18
Number of underground tanks failing test	3

The use of 3 defective tanks was discontinued and they were filled with sand or fine concrete.



SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY, OR UNDER THE  
SUPERVISION OF, THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	4,491
Total number of houses and premises inspected	1,833

Number of inspections made of:-

Dwelling houses	1,305
Food Premises and catering establishment (Food & Drugs Act)	584
Caravan Sites and Moveable Dwellings	645
Factories	88
Shops (Shops Act)	277
Ice Cream Premises	59
Dairies	20
Drainage systems	459
Petrol Installations	650
Swill Boiling Plants	23
Agricultural Holdings	45
Premises as the result of complaints of nuisance	297
Tests of Swimming Bath Water	-
Investigations into cases of infectious diseases	31
Premises, disinfected or disinfested	15
Drain tests of drainage systems beleived to be defective	31

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and the Medical Officer of Health, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. ELLIS

Chief Public Health Inspector.



